

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
TUESDAY, MAY 8, 6:30 P.M.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ashley Brady	Councilman Michael Baker
Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt	Councilman Joseph Frazier
Councilman Ralph Atkinson	Councilwoman Tassie Lewis
Councilman Ronald Atkinson	

STAFF PRESENT:

Alan Ammons, City Administrator	Pam Jones, Substitute Clerk
James Brogdon, City Attorney	Lt. Tony Flowers

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Ashley Brady called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He encouraged citizens to come out to the monthly council meeting.

2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The open prayer was given, and Mr. Alan Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. WELCOME CITIZENS, GUESTS & PRESS

Mayor Brady welcomed citizens, guests, and the press (Hometown TV 8).

4. APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING APRIL 10, 2018

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 10, 2018, seconded by Councilman Ralph Atkinson. The motion passed unanimously.

5. MARCH EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Officer Jacolgan Mack from the Marion Police Department was named April Employee of the Month and presented with a gift certificate.

6. SET DATE FOR BUDGET WORKSHOP

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to hold the Budget Workshop on May 15, 2018 at 5:15 p.m. in Council Chambers. The motion was seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier and carried unanimously.

7. 1st READING ON ORDINANCE 18-01, AN ORDINANCE TO SET MILLAGE FOR RAISING FUNDS AND TO ADOPT THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MARION, FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to accept 1st Reading of Ordinance 18-01, An Ordinance to Set Millage for the City of Marion, Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilman Michael Baker and carried unanimously.

8. 1st READING ON ORDINANCE 18-02, AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE LOCAL HOSPITALITY REVENUE FOR THE CITY OF MARION FOR THE 2018-19 FISCAL YEAR

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to accept 1st Reading of Ordinance 18-02, An Ordinance to Appropriate Local Hospitality Revenue for the City of Marion for the 2018-19 Fiscal Year. Councilman Joseph Frazier offered a second and the motion carried unanimously.

9. ADMISTRATOR'S REPORT:

A. Update CTC Projects

Mr. Ammons stated that driveways are 95% complete. Dozier Street and Martin Luther King Drive should be completed in 20-30 days. The City will be bidding out sidewalk replacements and repairs and have it ready for Council's approval at the next meeting. Mr. Ammons asked that Council give him a list of any sidewalks in their district that need repair or replace

B. Update on Nuisance Violations

Mr. Ammons stated that 20 lots have been cut by the City and will be charged back to the property owner.

C. Update on Spring Cleanup

Mr. Ammons commented that there was a tremendous amount of debris to be picked up and could not be done in a week, so they are still picking up. He suggested that there be 2 cleanups, one in the spring and one in the fall.

D. Miscellaneous

The reservations for the MASC Conference will be made on May 20th. If you plan to attend, please get your information in by next week. Mr. Ammons will make copies of the registration form for those Council members who need them.

Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt inquired on when vegetation should be cut, as some like it as a barrier, while others don't. If it's in violation, we may be able to help get it in compliance, as there are some that only need a portion cut to be in compliance. Councilman Frazier asked that Mr. Ammons have someone get the dead limbs from the pine tree he had cut.

13. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney James Brogdon had no update.

14. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Mayor Brady stated that Departmental Reports were included in the Council packets for review.

15. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATES FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor Brady commented that we were behind on the C & D pickup, but are making progress. Twenty lots of grass have been cut using the new 10 ft. bush hog. The County had a forfeited land sale last week and the City will get some revenue from that. Nuisance letters for grass have been sent out. A nuisance letter has also been sent to the property owner at Thomas Trailer Park, giving him 10 days to comply. If no response at the end of 10 days, he will be sent a final notice and if no response at the end of those 10 days, the City will be able to move forward. Mr. Ammons will get the cost of what the cleanup will be. Councilman Frazier has a signed petition of 150 names of residents who want Thomas Trailer Park cleaned up. Councilman Frazier also expressed his concern with the Blumenthal property. Mayor Brady will talk with the County about helping clean up that property. Mayor Brady thanked Councilman Frazier for his concern and efforts in cleaning up that area. Mayor Brady is asking that the Police Department and Fire Department and any others who see a street light out, fill out the form with the street, pole number and whether the light is out or flickering. Please give these to Ainsley at City Hall and she will contact Duke Energy with the info. Duke will repair within 7-10 days after notification.

Councilman Michael Baker asked if Duke was working on the glitch in their reporting system. Mr. Ammons responded that they are aware of the glitch and that sometimes the address doesn't correspond with the pole location and they need a reference point as to where the pole is. Mayor Brady commented that Duke will replace the poles on Bobby Gerald Parkway. Councilman Baker commented that the grass in the areas he was concerned about was taken care of yesterday.

Councilman Joseph Frazier commented that he attended the County Council meeting and a green light bulb company made a presentation regarding the money that could be saved. Councilman Frazier invited them to talk to City Council and was told they would be in Marion on May 30th. Mr. Ammons will have info available for them at that time. They will then do an assessment and come back to Council to make a presentation.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson has talked to Mr. Ammons about his concerns.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson had no comment at this time.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis commented that she had spoken with the light company and nothing official was done. She thanked the Marion JRT Program for being here and also Reverend Hemingway for always caring and sharing, and is the epitome of selflessness. It is important that we invest in our children. She also thanked the Marion-Dillon Delta Sigma Sorority for the invitation to the Community Awareness Day. Interim Chief Tony Flowers and Councilman Emerson Hunt were also in attendance. It is important to fellowship and share information, as everything that happens in the city affects all of us.

Mayor Pro-tem Emerson stated that he wished everyone a great day. He then recognized Dr. LeCarol Ford, a pillar of our community and carries the respect of the community. Mayor Pro-tem Hunt also recognized Reverend Hemingway and the work he does for the young people in our community. He thanked everyone for attending the council meeting. It is much better for all of us to work together for the common good.

Mayor Ashley Brady stated that the City of Marion has been awarded Tree City USA and Ms. Lois Edwards will be here at a later date to make the presentation. Shred Day will be held Friday, May 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., behind Baxley Hardware.

You may bring up to 4 boxes to be shredded on site. May 19th will bring us the 26th Annual Fox Trot Festival.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to amend the agenda to allow Reverend Hemingway to speak, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried unanimously. Reverend Hemingway and several of his JRT students thanked the City for their help, support and encouragement with their programs and with the JRT Youth Day. They presented the City with a thank you card for supporting Denim Day along with a plaque. Each Council member was presented a bottle of grape juice with the JRT logo. Mayor Brady thanked Reverend Hemingway for the presentations to the City and Council members. He further thanked Reverend Hemingway for all that he does for the youth of Marion County.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker to go into Executive Session for a Personnel Matter – City Clerk, and a Contractual Matter. Councilman Ronald Atkinson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

17. POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

Returning from executive session, a motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to return to regular session, seconded by Councilman Ralph Atkinson. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Ashley Brady stated that there was no action taken during executive session.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to allow Mayor Brady and City Administrator Ammons to enter into a contract with PMH and Carlisle & Associates in regards to services for the proposed Capital Sales Tax projects; seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson. The motion carried unanimously.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Mayor Ashley Brady

Substitute Clerk Pam Jones